

The Grace Lutheran

Newsletter of Grace LCMS – Greenwood, Arkansas

June 2026

From Pastor's Pen...

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



This Father's Day, we give thanks to God for the gift of fathers and for the perfect picture of fatherhood revealed in our Heavenly Father. While earthly dads are imperfect, Scripture points us to the One who is unchanging, loving, protective, and holy—our Abba Father. In Him we see the true and perfect reality of what fatherhood was always meant to be: faithful provision, tender care, righteous discipline, and unwavering spiritual leadership.

God calls fathers to reflect His heart in the home. The Bible is clear that the husband and father is to be the head of the household, particularly in spiritual matters (Ephesians 5:23). This leadership is not about dominance or control, but about sacrificial love, humble service, and guiding the family toward Christ. It means modeling prayer, teaching God's Word, leading family worship, and making decisions that honor the Lord.

Even in the daily grind, true leadership shines through humility. Martin Luther powerfully reminded us that fathers show Christ-like love and leadership by humbling themselves to do the mundane tasks—changing diapers and getting up in the middle of the night to tend to crying babies. Such work is not merely “women's work,” but an act of faithful service that brings a smile to the face of God and all His angels.

We are reminded of Joshua's bold confession in Joshua 24:15: “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” This declaration should echo in every Christian home. Joshua took responsibility. He did not leave spiritual direction to chance, culture, or his wife alone. He led.

In sad contrast, our modern culture often presents a very different picture. Too many homes suffer from absent fathers. While this term “absent father” often refers to a household in which dad is not physically present, there are also many more cases in which dad is physically present yet emotionally or spiritually distant. Some fathers have abdicated leadership entirely, leaving spiritual formation to mothers or to no one at all. Others actively lead, but in the wrong direction: chasing career success at the expense of family, prioritizing entertainment over eternity, or displaying indifference toward God's Word and His church. “Too busy for God” has become a common excuse that quietly leads households away from the faith.

The results are heartbreaking—broken homes, confused children, and generations growing up without a clear vision of biblical manhood. Yet the Gospel offers hope and restoration. No matter our past failures or cultural pressures, God's grace empowers men to step up as faithful spiritual leaders today.

Fathers, you are not alone in this calling. Our Heavenly Father stands ready to strengthen, forgive, and equip you. Church family, let us surround the fathers among us with prayer, encouragement, and accountability. Let us celebrate those who lead well and lovingly support those who desire to grow in this high and holy role.

This Father's Day, may every father in our church family echo Joshua's words with fresh conviction: “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” And may our lives increasingly reflect the perfect fatherhood of our God.

Happy Father's Day!

In Christ,
Pastor

+ + + + + + + +

Blessings to Grads & Dads!

Congratulations to Class of 2026 High School grad Esmerelda Barge!

Happy Father's Day June 21st

Almighty God, Giver of life, what a great blessing You have given to the family in fathers. Through Christian parents You brought us to Baptism where we received spiritual life in Jesus Christ. Through our fathers You provided for our care and protected our lives in this world. We marvel at Your wisdom and praise You for Your goodness.

Help us every day to honor our fathers and thank them for caring and providing for us. May each of us bear witness to the world that children are a blessing from You, Amen

June Birthdays

- 2 Annabelle Geiger
- 5 Justin Blanton
- 18 Jeanette Zirbel
Dixie Cotner
Jo Scrivner
- 29 Julie Basham



June Anniversaries

- 1 Pastor Jason & Jeanette Zirbel
- 15 Jess & Creena Bocksnick
- 16 Bill & Michelle Stayton
- 20 Justin & Cheyenne Blanton
- 22 Glen and Michelle Fleer
Nathan & Alyssa Cox
- 25 Dewayne & Gail Kennedy
- 27 Ward & Star Locklear



Life in Christ...

Wednesday Bible Study continues in the study of one of our core Lutheran confessions – The Smalcald Articles, aka Luther’s “Last Will & Testament.” Class meets at 10:00am and all are encouraged to attend. FYI: *No Bible study on 6/10.*

LWML will meet on Tuesday 6/2 at 11:30am at Golden Corral Buffet (1801 S Waldron Rd, Ft Smith). If you’re interested in carpooling, please meet at Grace’s parking lot at 11:00am. ALL women of Grace are invited to attend and join in the discussion/planning of projects for the coming year. Questions? Please speak with Linda Hansson.

Bon Voyage! Prayers for safe travels for Pastor Zirbel and Jeannette as they celebrate their 30th Anniversary! Pastor will be on vacation from 6/5 through 6/15.

Guest Pastors – In Pastor Zirbel’s absence, Bible study and Worship will continue with a *temporary revised* schedule. No 8:00am worship on 6/7 and 6/14. There will still be 9:00am Bible study and 10:15am worship. Rev. Wayne Schuett (retired from Muskogee) will cover 6/7. Rev. Mark Haas will cover 6/14.

Help Needed – Grace parishioners William & Irma Mullen of Fort Smith need a ride to and/or from worship on Sunday mornings. Can you help with a ride, either to 10:15am worship or home from the 10:15am worship? If you’d like to pick-up and take home on the same day - Thanks be to God!

A sign-up sheet is posted in the Narthex. Questions? Please speak with Deaconess Connie.

Directory Updates – Please review the Grace Lutheran Church Directory posted in the Narthex. Please update/add/delete as needed by 6/21. An updated Directory will be distributed with your information by 6/28. Thank you for the updates.



Grace Lutheran Church
18218 US Highway 71 South
Greenwood, AR 72936

The Grace Lutheran

Newsletter of Grace LCMS – Greenwood, Arkansas

Sunday Worship Service

8:00am & 10:15am

Adult Bible Study & Sunday School 9:00am

Wednesday Bible Study 10:00am

*For by grace you have been saved through
faith. And this is not your own doing; it is
the gift of God, not a result of works, so that
no one may boast.*

Ephesians 2:8-9